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E. De la Garza

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

19 March 1975

WASHINGTON, D C -- Rep Kika de la Garza said Wednesday that the USDA has agreed to fund the 1975 Agricultural Conservation Program at \$190,000,000 as the Congress ordered.

The ACP program is designed to encourage the application of long lasting soil and water conservation practices and has been a program in which South Texas farmers have long been interested according to de la Garza.

Rep de la Garza said that the South Texas producers of agricultural commodities had urged maintenance of the \$190,000,000 ACP program which had been initially withheld by the Administration despite agreements which had been signed to fully fund them under the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program currently projected at \$33,750,000.

"This program will offer both annual and long-term conservation agreements with farmers in South Texas and elsewhere in the nation," the Congressman explained. "It will share with farmers from 50 to 75 percent of the cost of carrying out approved soil, water and woodland conservation practices. Under long-term agreements, cost-sharing will be scheduled over a period of from three to ten years. The agreements will be based on conservation farm plans approved by local Soil Conservation Districts."

Congressman de la Garza said the Department of Agriculture has informed him that details of specific practices designed to protect soil, water and woodland resources on a permanent basis will be announced soon.